

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-06

EA-06 ISO-00 SP-02 PM-03 DODE-00 /038 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNESCO:RDFORSTER;EA/VN:JDFINNEY,JR.:JU

APPROVED BY IO/UNESCO:FJGALANTO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009693

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UNESCO, VS, VN

SUBJECT: GVN APPEAL TO UNESCO RE CAO DAI HOLY SEE

REFS: A) SAIGON 00212; B) PARIS 000548; C) SAIGON
00379

1. WE SHARE SOME OF PERMDEL'S CONCERNS (PARA. 2 OF REFTTEL
B) REGARDING GVN APPEAL AS PRESENTLY CAST AND BELIEVE THAT
GVN INTERESTS MIGHT BE BETTER SERVED IF IT WERE TO REQUEST
DG M'BOW TO NOTIFY MEMBERS OF GVN APPEAL CONCERNING THREAT
TO CAO DAI HOLY SEE, EXPRESS DISTRESS OVER SITUATION, AND
REMIND ALL PEOPLES OF WORLD OF NEED TO RESPECT AND
PRESERVE WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE. US DEL. COULD FULLY
ENDORSE GVN DEMARCHE WITH SEPARATE APPROACH TO DG.

2. AS FOLLOW-UP, GVN MIGHT WISH TO HAVE MATTER PLACED ON
AGENDA OF NEXT MEETING OF UNESCO'S 40-MEMBER EXECUTIVE
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BOARD IN MAY. US BOARD MEMBER WOULD BE IN EXCELLENT POSI-

TION TO SUPPORT THIS MOVE AND ENLIST SYMPATHY OF HIS COLLEAGUES, OVER LIKELY OPPOSITION FROM PRC AND SOVIET MEMBERS.

3. ABOVE APPROACH, IF WIDELY PUBLICIZED, WOULD ALERT WORLD OPINION TO DANGER TO IMPORTANT SOUTH VIETNAMESE RELIGIOUS

AND CULTURAL INSTITUTION WHILE LEAVING LITTLE DOUBT AS TO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THREAT IN VIEW OF WIDELY REPORTED NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY ATTACKS IN AREA. DEPT. WOULD APPRECIATE PERM DEL'S VIEWS ON BOARD'S LIKELY REACTIONS.

4. GVN REP. TO UNESCO, AMBASSADOR DINH, MIGHT TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH M'BOW PRACTICALITY OF APPROACHING DRV ON ISSUE, WHILE STRONGLY URGING THAT PRG NOT BE APPROACHED. HOWEVER, WE QUESTION WHETHER THERE WOULD BE MUCH VALUE IN SUCH ACTION GIVEN LACK OF DIRECT CHANNEL BETWEEN UNESCO AND DRV. ALSO REGARDLESS OF HOW UNESCO MIGHT TRY TO APPROACH DRV, THIS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT BE DONE PUBLICLY WHICH WOULD GREATLY REDUCE POTENTIAL POLITICAL ADVANTAGE FOR GVN. ALSO IN OUR VIEW UNESCO APPROACH TO DRV COULD WELL RESULT IN EFFORT BY HANOI TO USE ISSUE TO SEEK IMPLICIT UNESCO RECOGNITION OF PRG. KISSINGER

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